



View from the

Blackdown Hills

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Issue 70 July 2010

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School applies for academy status

A BLACKDOWNS secondary school has applied to become an academy school under the new government's plans to improve education.

Following a meeting last month, Uffculme School governors voted in favour of applying for

By Lisa Bright

academy status, giving the school greater freedom and control over school budgets.

In a letter to parents, Chair of Governors Richard Carman, said he believed the decision to switch to an academy

would secure Uffculme's future as an outstanding school and provide them with the freedom and autonomy to continue to provide the very best in state funded comprehensive education.

Although Mr Carmen

said there are some implications in becoming an academy school, he said they were unlikely to affect the students and their families.

With academy status the school could expect to receive a further £370,000 a year in funding.

Mr Carmen and the governing board hope that with additional funding the school may be able to provide post 16 study opportunities.

Academies' are publicly funded independent schools, which are free from local authority control.

Other freedoms include setting their own pay and conditions for staff, freedom from the national curriculum and the ability to set lengths of terms and schools day. Academies will also have greater control over school budgets.

Up until now only underachieving schools have been able to benefit from academy status.

However, new Secretary of State Education Michael Gove has in-

vited schools with an outstanding Ofsted rating to apply for academy status.

Headteacher of Uffculme School, Lorraine Heath, said: "This is in-

credibly exciting news for Uffculme and we are all looking forward to the opportunities it will bring to make the right decisions for the students of Uffculme School."

"We are, however, still keen to work in partnership with other local schools and to continue to collaborate with all of our partner schools."



◇ AS part of their 60th birthday celebrations, Dunkeswell WI invited residents of the village to a free cream tea.

About 80 people turned up to enjoy the homemade scones and jam, and the WI ladies were kept busy during the afternoon serving teas and coffees.

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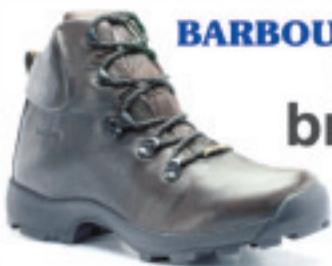
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First anniversary for children's nursery

A WELLINGTON children's nursery has celebrated its first birthday by holding a "thank you" barbecue party for parents, children, and staff.

More than 100 people attended the anniversary event at Blackdown Children's Day Nursery.

The nursery was opened in May of last year in a former pigsty at Chelston, Wellington, opposite the new Westpark 26 business park.

Blackdown Children's Day Nursery owner Graham Brister-Thorne said: "We have had an absolutely terrific first year and achieved far more than I could have expected when we started."

"The success of any



◆ A CHILD on 'Windmill Hill' in the grounds of Blackdown Children's Day Nursery

nursery can be judged by how full it is, as parents will quickly tell each other if they think there is

something not right.

"So, I am glad to say

that the numbers of chil-

down Children's Day Nursery has steadily increased throughout the year as more and more parents have heard good reports about us.

"Thanks to our great team of staff, we have also achieved the highest possible Ofsted report a new nursery could expect, plus a five-star rating from the Deane council's environmental health team for our food standards.

"So, I wanted to say a big thank you not just to my staff, but to everybody who has helped us to be so successful over the past year."

As well as the barbecue, the nursery organised a bouncy castle and face painting for the children's entertainment and opened up the play facilities in its extensive private grounds.



◆ FACE painting at Blackdown Children's Day Nursery's first birthday party

Open-air theatre

OPEN-air theatre will be coming to Broadhembury later this month.

The Rain or Shine Theatre Company will be performing Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest".

Directed by James Reynard, the show will take place on Thursday, July 8th at Broadhembury Playing Field from 6.30pm.

The gates will open at 5.30pm for those wanting to bring a picnic to eat before the show.

Tickets are £12 and are available by phoning (01884) 266245.

Coffee morning

THE Blackdown Hills Support Group will be holding a coffee morning.

The event will take place on Wednesday, July 21st at the Highfield Sports and Social Club, Dunkeswell, from 10.30 until 11.30am.

The coffee morning is held once a month and gives volunteers the opportunity to meet up as well as encourage new members to join.

Hymn sing raises £360

A HYMN singing event has raised over £360 for victims of the Haitian Earthquake.

The "Hymns for Haiti" event saw members of Yarcombe Baptist Chapel and parish church gather at the Jubilee Hall to sing a huge range of hymns.

The proceeds of the event will go to the victims of the earthquake, which struck the Caribbean island of Haiti early this year.

Tea party

YARCOMBE Baptist Chapel will host their annual tea party this month.

The afternoon tea party will take place on Saturday, July 24th from 3pm to 5.30pm.

Dressage competition

TAUNTON and District Riding Club will be holding an unaffiliated dressage competition.

The event will be at Haydon House, Taunton on Friday, July 9th. Contact (01823) 442448 for further details.

There will also be an unaffiliated show jumping competition on Sunday, August 1st at Heal Riding Centre. Contact (01884) 255627 for more information.

Village fete

SHELDON is gearing up for its annual village fete. This year there will be a children's fancy dress competition with the theme of film and TV characters. There will also be a variety of stalls including books, produce, cards, plants, games and competitions.

The village fete will be held at Sheldon Court on Saturday, July 10th, where plenty of parking is available.

Summer holiday for church



◆ AROUND 50 members of Hemyock Baptist Church enjoyed glorious weather for their annual church weekend away.

Members of the church enjoyed a weekend's stay at Lee Abbey retreat centre on the North Devon coastline.

While adults enjoyed a talk entitled "Living in the Power of the Spirit" by guest speaker Steve Brady, Principle of Moorlands College, children enjoyed a programme of fun activities.

Commenting on the weekend, Pastor Steven Reed said: "This was such a special time for us all. Steve's teaching was as ever inspiring, the location was idyllic, the weather fantastic and our hosts at Lee Abbey could not have been more friendly and helpful."

Search is on for Blackdowns' community plan co-ordinator

THE search is on for somebody who can help thousands of people living in the Blackdown Hills to speak with one voice.

A group representing 40 parishes on either side of the Devon-Somerset county border wants to find a co-ordinator who can prepare a community-led plan for the area.

The common denominator for the 40 parishes is that they are all within the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Blackdown Hills Parishes Network has been set up with the idea of working together to form a collective voice for the area.

Now, the network is hoping a community plan can be put together to promote positive action for the future by addressing specific issues and priorities common to parishes in the area.

However, the network, which is supported by the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership, requires the help of a co-ordinator who will be central to putting the plan together.

Heather Stallard, chair of the Blackdown Hills Parishes Network, said:

"This would be an exciting opportunity for somebody who knows what makes a local community tick and who may be looking to add to their CV or who would like to offer their valuable experience."

"We are looking for a person who knows the Blackdown Hills and will be able to travel locally and get around meeting people."

"They will be required to undertake research and analysis, finding out common issues from parish plans and plans of other groups, undertake consultation, organise and run workshops, and then write the plan."

"They would need to report back periodically to the BHPN's Community Plan Working Group."

A time commitment of about one to two days a week would be needed and the work is likely to take between 12 and 18 months to complete.

It would be essential for the chosen candidate to have their own computer with internet access, while additional administrative support such as photocopying and mail-outs could be provided by the AONB office in Hemyock.



◆ MEMBERS of the Blackdown Hills Parishes Network Community Plan Working Group at the AONB office at Hemyock

The co-ordinator will be paid a small honorarium and reimbursed their expenses.

Anybody who is interested in the position is welcome to have an informal

chat with Heather on (01823) 680237 or can register their interest by a brief letter to the AONB office, at St Ivel House, Hemyock, EX15 3SJ, before July 31.

Sun shines for allotment opening

A COMMUNITY project to bring allotments to the village of Combe St Nicholas has been hailed a huge success by a top garden expert.

The regional representative of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners, Alan Cavill, said the allotment site had been developed well and was in a beautiful location, nestled in the Blackdown Hills.

Chairman of Combe St Nicholas Parish Council also gave a positive endorsement for the project and complimented the allotment holders for their work and said they should be proud of what they had achieved.

The endorsement came as the Combe St Nicholas Allotment Society celebrated the grand opening of the site, which was



◆ A GROUP of allotment holders and guests celebrate the opening of the Combe St Nicholas Allotments

completed earlier this year following a year-long battle to find a suitable location for the allotments.

The day saw allotment

holders and villagers gather to enjoy a tour of the site and see all the good work which has been achieved in such a short period of time.

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◆ ALAN Cavill, regional representative South-west for the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (left) and Gerry Sayers, Chairman of Combe St Nicholas Parish Council (right) cut the tape

Speed checks

POLICE in Honiton will be carrying out speed checks in Dunkeswell following complaints from residents.

The Neighbourhood Police Team have circulated flyers and posters around the village to remind residents of the 30mph speed limit through the village.

This follows a number of complaints received about speeding, particularly vehicles visiting the industrial estate area.

The police therefore have warned that they will complete a speed detection survey within the parish.

Traffic delays

TRAFFIC lights will be in operation in Culmstock from Monday, July 12th to Friday, July 16th while Western Power replace overhead cables.

Four way traffic lights will be in operation around the church area and Western Power warn there could be some long delays.

Church fete

THIS year's Hemyock church fete promises to be a musical extravaganza with performances from local musicians on the cards.

The St Mary's Church summer fete is the highlight of the village calendar.

This year there will be performances from local bands and singers and Taunton Hospital Radio will once again be providing music and commentary.

The fete will be on Saturday, July 10th from 11am at the Hemyock recreation field.

Stalls are still available to book. For more information contact Patricia Fuller (01823) 680436 or David Bawler (01823) 680352.

Family sports day

THE Upper Culm Twinning Association will once again host a family fun sports event, following the success of last year's evening.

People can participate in a variety of sports including French Boules, skittles and rounders.

There will also be a bar and barbecue.

The family sports evening will take place on Saturday, July 17th from 4pm until 8pm at the Longmead Field, Hemyock.

Trustees stand down

TWO long serving trustees of a vital Blackdown Hills charity have stood down from their roles.

Roger Lambert and Anne Sworn stood down as trustees of the Blackdown Support Group, a charity which helps people in need, after a number of years.

The chairman and co-ordinator thanked the pair, along with fellow trustees and volunteers, during their AGM meeting, and presented them with small gifts as a token of appreciation for their hard work over the years.

After the business was concluded entertainment was very much the theme of the evening with music from the Churchinford Calypso Band, followed by wine and cheese.

If you want to find out more about the Blackdown Support Group phone Barbara on (01823) 681036.

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Picnic raises £2,000

A TEDDY bear's picnic in Yarcombe has raised more than £2,000 for Royal Devon and Exeter Neonatal Unit.

The event was organised by Julie Rich, who wanted to thank the unit after her twin girls Katie and Ellie were born prematurely.

The total stands to date at £2,089.

Julie said: "This has completely exceeded our expectations and we thank you for your generosity."

"The weather held out and we hope everyone had an enjoyable afternoon. Katie and Ellie had a great time meeting lots of new faces."

The afternoon saw a whole host of fun family activities including games.

Open garden

A GARDEN which opened to the public last month, has raised £325 for the village church.

The garden at Lower Chelmsine, Angersleigh, was opened by owners Dr David and Lindy Edmonson, and saw people visit from across the district to see the flowers, vegetables, herbs, shrubs and trees and a 500 year old A-framed tatched barn.

Teas were served throughout the afternoon by church volunteers.

Money raised will go Angersleigh Parish Church and village hall.

Hall under threat

THE future of a historic village hall is under threat as villagers in Angerleigh decide whether the building should be torn down in favour of a new hall.

The hall was built in 1906.

Villagers met to discuss whether money should be spent updating the hall or whether money should be raised to demolish and replace it with a new building.

WIN JLS tickets

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but also in the solo sections of the Schutz "Exequien" in which we heard many combinations of solo voices.

The balance between the solo voices in these sections was very impressive and allayed any misgivings about occasional smudged entries.

Without doubt the triumph and highlight of the evening was the performance of J S Bach's "Singet dem Herrn". This extraordinarily difficult piece could be described as a vocal Brandenburg concerto, stretching, as it does, all performers to their

technical and breathing limits.

One so often hears performances of this work in which the choir explodes with pyrotechnical energy.

Consequently I was initially underwhelmed by the opening of this version.

Soon, however, the penny dropped. Singing this work is the vocal equivalent of running a marathon so there is no point in charging off the blocks and then running the risk of not reaching the finishing line without some sort of catastrophe.

No. This was a well thought through, well-paced, vocally controlled and ultimately entirely satisfying experience: a musical journey in a Rolls Royce rather than a bumper car.

I greatly admire the way

in which JanJoost works with his singers and their delight in working with him is tangible.

This was another splendid concert from the Blackdowns Early Music Projects and especially thanks to Catherine and Geoffrey Bass for being the inspiration and tireless driving force behind this marvellous festival.

Music and the Spanish Armada

Review by Martyn Warren

A LITTLE over 400 years ago Elizabeth I died, after a long reign whose stability was bought at the cost of increasingly harsh repression of Roman Catholics.

Parishioners struggled to adapt, yet again, to a change in the established religion from Catholic to Protestant.

In the more exalted circles of the Catholic nobility, the same tensions were reflected in coded reaction through the medium of music.

Such was the background to a concert in Wellington Parish Church, home to the brooding tomb of John Popham, a Lord Chief Justice responsible for the death sentences on many Catholics.

Given as part of the Blackdowns Early Music Project's Festival, the concert featured a 25-strong choir under the direction of Peter Leech, and instrumental interludes by Andrew Wilson-Dickson (organ) and Lynda Sayce (lute).

The core of the programme was a selection of songs by the recusant William Byrd, some of them clearly protests at

Upcoming events...England v Flanders

NO, not more football, but two concerts by Blackdowns Early Music showing the very interesting competition between living Flemish composers and their English counterparts at the end of the 15th century, just before the accession of Henry VIII.

This was a very rich and innovative time for music, Flanders leading the way in developing a

forward continental style, featuring especially the giant composers Josquin, Obrecht and Gombert.

In defence of the older English style, there is the wonderful Eton Choir Book containing the fruition of 100 years of Renaissance music.

Appropriately the expert singers from Holland and England come together for the weekend, working under the challenging di-

rection of JanJoost van Elburg to provide astonishing vocal music.

This is the third of the popular Blackdowns Early Music Festival series in 2010 starting with a free concert on July 3rd at 6.30pm in Culmstock parish church; then on July 4th in St George's Roman Catholic church in Taunton.

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Pulman's View from

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A bumper year for Blagdon Hill fete

ORGANISERS of Blagdon Hill village fete are celebrating another bumper profit of around £4,000 from last month's sun-blessed event.

Almost 1,000 people enjoyed the wall-to-wall sunshine at the Sellicks Green playing field. Treasurer Chris Loveluck reported takings at the £6,000 mark and profits exceeding last year's high level. Annual profits over the past 10 years have averaged well over £3,000.

The event, opened by Taunton's MP Jeremy Browne, is staged by the Pitminster and Angersleigh Playing Field Association, backed by an army of volunteers keen to do their bit in a busy and thriving community.

The association is a charity which relies on the fete as its main fund-raising

source during the year. Proceeds go towards maintaining the playing field, which provides not only sporting facilities, but an excellent children's play facility.

The area has just undergone a facelift with fencing and an improved car parking facility costing over £2,000, which will be met from reserves and funds raised by the fete.

Besides providing many stalls and other attractions, the association made a conscious effort to back the local youth initiative by including two creative and innovative bands – "In Search of Susquatch" and "Stand Down" - which provided the music and gave a clear message that the community has talent.



◆ THE fete opening with Jeremy Browne MP



◆ CROWDS flocked to this year's Blagdon Hill fete



◆ LOCAL band Stand Down performed

Centuries of tradition alive at the Lamb and Flag

■ CENTURIES of tradition and history have been celebrated in the 500-year-old Lamb and Flag Inn at Blagdon Hill.

The inn, which dates back to the 16th century, staged two performances to mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's "The Tempest". It is the latest in a number of initiatives by landlord Mark Bond to add some variety to village life.

The play was performed by the Oxford Shakespeare Company who have appeared at the Lamb and Flag at this time of year for the past five years.



◆ MEMBERS of the Oxford Shakespeare company perform "The Tempest" at the Lamb and Flag Inn.

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Flying high to raise funds for church

ONE dedicated churchgoer will be going the extra mile to raise funds for her local church by jumping out of a plane.

Pam Garrod from Dunkeswell has decided to complete a charity skydive to raise money for St Nicholas' Church.

Pam is heavily involved with the church and was secretary for the PCC for nine years as well as being a member of the church's handbell ringers.

This year, the church is trying to raise as many funds as possible and will be holding a number of fundraisers throughout the year.

She said: "We need funds for the church and we are holding extra fundraisers. I had thought about doing a skydive for the handbell ringers but as they are part of the church, I thought I

would do it for the church."

She added: "Sat in my garden I can see the skydivers fall from the sky and I thought I would like to go up there and now I have the opportunity to do it. Everybody thinks I'm mad."

As well as Pam's skydive, the church plan to hold a salmon and strawberry feast.

The feast will take place on Friday, July 2nd at the Throgmorton Community Hall, Dunkeswell from 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 and are available by phoning Ann on (01404) 891684.

Pam hopes to complete her skydive at Dunkeswell airfield on Tuesday, July 27th.

If you would like to sponsor Pam, forms are available at the garage and the shop in Dunkeswell.

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	Brookridge Timber
	Doctors Surgery
	Spar
	School of Flying
	Air Centre
	Lake View Manor
	Highfield Garage
	MST Auctioneers
	Royal Oak
	Catherine Wheel
	Ivy Cafe, Brook House
	Post Office & Stores
	Halifax Building Society
	Brookridge Timber
	Doctors Surgery
	Spar
	Blackdown Hills
	AONB Office
	TIC
	Slades Countrywise
	Town Council
	New St Newsagents
	Stags Estate Agents
	Howley Tavern
	Rose Mill Feeds
	Dillington House
	Meeting House
	PO
	PO
	Old Inn
	Millers Farm Shop
	Offwell Stores
	Windmill Garage
	PO
	Six Bells
	Golden Pet Supplies
	Farm Shop
	King's Arms
	The Greyhound
	TIC
	TIC
	District Council
	Post Office
	Village Shop
	Coldharbour Mill
	Best One Store
	Co-op
	The Haymaker
	Barleymows Farm
	Shop
	Ferne Animal Sanctuary
	Pub
	The Old Well
	TIC
	Webbers
	Blackdown Garden
	Centre
	Willowbrook Nursery
	Blackbird Inn
	Farmers Inn
	The Belfry

Memorial for fallen soldiers



◆ PEOPLE gather by the memorial from left Robin Gilbert, Gerald Layzell, Jim Stagg, Mike Venn and Bugler Paul Fraser



◆ GERALD Layzell lays a wreath at the memorial

A SPECIAL memorial service was held to remember American soldiers who left from Smeatharpe Airfield on the eve of the D-Day landings in 1944.

Members of the Royal British Legion gathered at the sentry box memorial in the village to pay tribute to the US servicemen of the 101st Airborne Parachute Regiment, the 439 Troop Carrier Group and the 82nd Glider Regiment who took off from Smeatharpe Airfield on June 6th 1944 for Normandy, never to return.

By Lisa Bright

The Reverend John Woollam conducted the service, organised by the South West Airfields Heritage Trust.

Children from Upottery Primary School laid crosses at the memorial, with each cross bearing the name of an American serviceman who lost their life.

■ THE Southwest Airfields Heritage Trust will be holding a "Wings and Wheels" weekend on Saturday, August 21st and

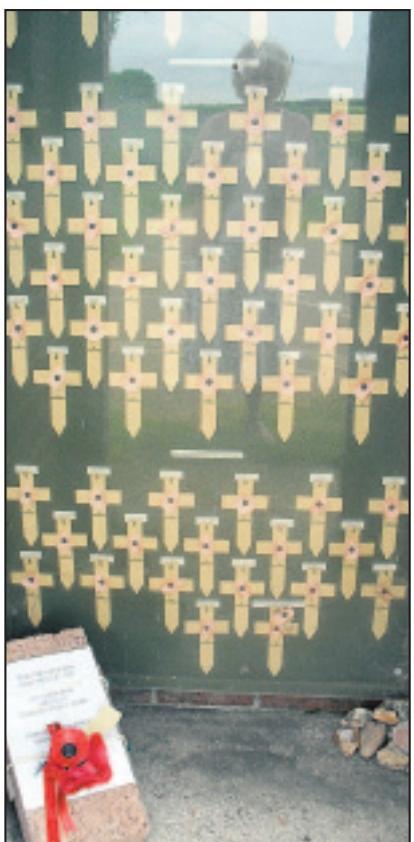
Sunday, August 22nd at Smeatharpe airfield.

As well as vintage vehicles, the highlight of the weekend will be a visit from an original DC3 Dakota, which took part in the D-Day operation. The Dakota will be flying in escorted by a spitfire and will be the star attraction for the weekend.

Further details will be available from the SWAHT website www.southwestairfields.com.



◆ FROM left Robin Gilbert, Jim Stagg and Flight Lieutenant Gary Tame



◆ CROSSES made by children from Upottery Primary School bear the names of the American servicemen who lost their lives

Pulman's
View from Series of Newspapers
part of the Tindle Newspapers group



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Tennis ace opens new courts



◆ TENNIS ace Sally Freeman (second left) opens the new tennis courts in Upottery

A WORLD champion tennis player was invited to officially open new courts at Upottery.

The new courts sees an end to a five year project to improve tennis facilities for villagers.

Following the decline of Upottery Tennis Club and the deterioration of the village courts, members set about initiating a restoration project to return the village centre courts back to their former glory.

However, it quickly became apparent that it would not be feasible and instead looked at the possibility of building new courts at the Glebe Park playing field.

Five years on and the courts became a reality thanks to funding from Devon county Council's Investing in Devon Fund and the Foundation of Devon Grassroots Fund.

Veteran English tennis player Sally Freeman was invited to open the two courts.

Upottery Tennis Club Chairman Paul Marshallsay said: "It has been a long time coming. We are trying to bring sport in Upottery together, first with the football, then the tennis and next with the cricket."





News from around the villages in the Blackdown Hills

SMEATHARPE WI

THE village hall at Smeatharpe was arranged in a café style ready for a fish supper, and Beetle Drive evening for the ladies of Smeatharpe WI.

The meal was cooked and served by a team of members led by Sue Little and Liz Tucker.

The business part of the evening was kept to a minimum with the help of a printed resume compiled by business secretary Gloria Dobinson.

Updates were given on various charity events that had been accomplished and those that were ongoing. Sally Milnes' "Ascot Race Day" at her home on June 17th in aid of Friends of Musgrove Hospital was great fun, with members wearing Ascot style outfits.

Ann Salmon had suggestions for outings, including a trip to Bath, a sight-seeing tour of S S Great Britain in Bristol, garden open days and Killerton Flower Festival.

The Beetle Drive caused much amusement, with prizes given to winners and losers.

The first prize in the monthly competition was won by Elizabeth Badman with her beautifully decorated beetle and the Flower of the Month by Fleur Layzell's Geranium.

Visitors will be most welcome at the next meeting on July 1st, when the speaker will be Dave Allen, who will talk about the 1960s Pop Decade and on August 12th Judith King will demonstrate how to keep fit on a chair. These meetings will start at 7.30pm at Smeatharpe Village Hall.

BISHOPSWOOD LADIES

IT was a lovely sunny evening when a bus and two cars full of ladies, and some husbands, arrived at The Otter Brewery in Luppitt where the Bishopswood Ladies received a guided tour.

The brewery is a real family concern, which was started in 1990 by David and his wife. About 30 people work at the brewery and they produce 1,000 barrels of beer every week. It is said that a pint of Otter is drunk every nine seconds!

The tour began in the shed with the sacks of barley and hops. They then moved on up to the state of the art stainless steel brewery which was completed in 2005.

The barley and hops are put into a crusher with hot water to make a sort of porridge "mash" which converts the starch to sugar. A warm sweet liquid is produced which is pumped into large "kettles" where the whole hops are added to give it the bitter flavour. This is boiled for about one and a half hours.

The next stage is adding the yeast and oxygen in the collecting vessel before passing into the fermentation vessel where it remains for a week while the sugars are converted to alcohol.

The next stage is pumping the beer to the racking tank in the cellar before being put into the freshly cleaned barrels which are stored on racks. Isinglass finings are added just prior to putting the barrels on the lorries for delivery to landlords and retailers in the South West region.

The whole area is very eco-friendly. A new cellar was opened in the Spring of 2009, half of which is

underground, which means it keeps cool without having to use cooling equipment. It also has a sedum roof, which provides good insulation.

The yeast residue mixture is given to the local pig-herry for feed and the excess water flows through reed beds to be filtered before returning to the local water-course.

Naturally, members then had to taste the different beers with the barbecue.

The next meeting will be at the usual venue at 7.30 pm when the speaker will be Spencer Kingdom with his talk "Open all Hours". Visitors welcome.

DUNKESWELL WI

THERE were lots of ladies with birthdays during the June meeting of Dunkeswell WI.

Buttonholes, made by Ann Barker, were presented to June Viles, Di Mills, Rosemary Green, Jeanne Riley and Grace Eborn and Marguerite.

The guest speaker was Marian Scott, who told members about the time she spent in Sierra Leone in the late 1980s.

Despite the great poverty suffered by the people there they seemed to remain happy and smiling. It was a most interesting and at times poignant account.

Beryl Berry gave the vote of thanks.

Everyone is looking forward to "Calendar Girls" next month and it was reported that there are lots of events throughout the county for members to take part in including guided walks, a history day, a vintage fashion show and croquet days.

Members are getting ready to join the winter darts

and skittles competitions again, and Jenny reported she is now a further outing for September.

Hilda Wenman-Miles gave a report of the group's latest walk, which started from Kentisbeare and followed part of the Smugglers Way.

Jan reported that, as usual, everyone was kept guessing as to the destination of the Mystery Trip. After a two-hour drive the final destination had been Cheddar where everyone was able to enjoy some refreshments and spend time exploring.

Marguerite read out the report from the delegate to the 95th national AGM held in Cardiff. Speakers were Lee Durrell, widow of author Gerald Durrell, Tim Smit of Heligan and Eden Project fame and Gwen Parry Jones the first and (so far) only female director of a nuclear power station.

There was also a video link with John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons.

The day ended with a performance by Only Men Aloud, the winners of TV's Last Choir Standing.

The Resolution calling for the clear labelling of products with country of origin was passed with a massive majority. Ladies look forward to campaigning on such an important issue.

The competition for a favourite tea towel produced a large and colourful display. Rosie's was the winner, with Jeanne's second, and Ann Barker's third.

Jeanne's fantastic clematis was the Flower of the Month.

Pam Hunt, a local Sheldon lady, will be the speaker next month. She will be telling members about her life with flowers. Join Dunkeswell WI on Thursday, July 8th, 7.30pm at the village hall.

PWServices

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SOLAR ENERGY

If you're the type of person who wants to look after the environment and your money at the same time why not consider solar energy. We have been installing solar panels to heat hot water in a number of properties of varying sizes in the East Devon area, there are grants available and all labour and materials are charged at 5% vat. And if you have your solar installed by a local company, and not by someone who posts a leaflet through your door, you are guaranteed an efficient after sales service and not the delays or 'no show' of the leaflet droppers.

So for a NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION call our number below and we will be happy to arrange a site visit to discuss your requirements. Rest assured we will endeavour to design and supply your heating system or bathroom at a price you will not believe possible.

Tel: 0800 7818598

Mob: 07747 846206



*cost quoted is for supply only, it does not include installation.

The Blackdowns is gearing up for its first woodland fair

THE Blackdown Hills are about to have their very first Woodland Fair.

This family-friendly event will bring together some of the best wood-related activities from Somerset, Devon and Dorset.

The fair will run all day with activities including: "have-a-go" at green-woodworking, bush craft and other rural skills.

There'll be archery, wildlife walks and activities for children, demonstrations of aerial tree work and a steam-driven saw bench.

Stalls will sell crafts, tools and equipment and delicious locally-sourced refreshments will be available all day.

John Greenshields, the event organiser said: "The fair is set to be a popular and enjoyable day out for those interested in all things 'woody' - especially families as there are lots of activities to entertain the kids."

"We thought it was a shame the south west wood fair is no longer held and decided to do something about it by organising our very own Woodland Fair for the

Blackdowns."

So come and enjoy the world of wood on Saturday, July 3rd, 10am to 5pm, in a beautiful setting close to the Wellington Monument.

Park Farm (TA21 9NP) will be hosting the fair, signposted off the A38 just south of Wellington, leave the M5 at J26 if travelling south-bound, or J27 north-bound.

Entry charge will be just £5 per car on the gate.

The day is being organised by the Blackdown and East Devon Woodland Association through the Working Our Woodlands project, funded by the Blackdown Hills AONB, East Devon AONB and Making it Local, incorporating funding from the EU, Defra, SWRDA and LEADER.

The fair is also being supported by the Neroche Scheme, the Silvanus Trust and local sponsors.

Those interested in exhibiting at the fair or in being advertised as a sponsor should contact John Greenshields on (01823) 660764.

Glorious gardens open to public

A GLORIOUS weekend saw a large number of gardening enthusiasts heading for the Blackdown Hills where three gardens were opened to the public.

Organised by the Yarty Gardening Club, visitors were able to enjoy three very different gardens, in and around Buckland St Mary.

The warm weather ensured a profusion of blooms, and the sighting

of a long eared bat flitting about in one of the gardens added to the interest of the day.

The open gardens followed a very successful club open evening, where 20 visitors joined members for an entertaining talk on gardening with water by John Carter of Rowden Gardens, Tavistock.

Everyone enjoyed his wicked sense of humour, interspersing

some interesting and informative "dos" and "don'ts".

Next on the club's agenda is a day outing to the magnificent Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley on July 15th.

There are a few places left on the coach if anyone would like to join the club - phone (01460) 234351 for details.

Working our Woodlands

with John Greenshields

We have had some good weather so far and trees and shrubs have done well, but we could get a dry spell so keep an eye on trees planted this year.

There is a deadly disease coming up from Cornwall called Phytophthora Ramorum and it effects Larch. It is a notifiable disease and the Forestry Commission have made the lifting of felling restrictions easier, for more info go to www.forestry.gov.uk.

The Woodland Association organised a splendid afternoon's walk around some woodland owned by John and Val Godsmark. This wood is

semi ancient and was a sight to see with a carpet of Blue Bells and Wild Garlic. Afterwards walkers enjoyed a cup of tea and cake in Chaffcombe Village Hall.

Perry Hale Nurseries have informed me of another disease in the area, it's called Red Band Needle Blight and effects young Pines.

For more info go to the same FC web site.

On a lighter note if you missed the Blackdown Woodland Fair it's well worth going to the Oak Fair in Dorset, see www.woodbiz.co.uk.

I am very interested in forest gardening and only know a bit about it, if any one knows of experi-



disease in this area.
My usual contacts are 01823 660764 or parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk



◆ CHILDREN from Hemyock Primary School formed a giant walking bus in an attempt to break a world record.

A total of 145 pupils joined schoolchildren across the country to take part in road safety charity Brake's record attempt.

Children snaked their way around the village displaying banners warning drivers to watch their speed.

The record attempt also formed part of the childrens' "safety week" where they took part in a number of activities including cycle safety.



◆ THE Old Forge which had the added attraction of teas and plants for sale

Pulman's

View from



Blackdown Hills Newspaper owned by Tindle Newspaper group

- 8,000 copies distributed every month covering the Blackdown Hills area
- 10% Discount off advertising for members of the Blackdown Hills Business Association

To discuss promoting your business in this hugely popular paper and to enquire about our leaflet distribution services please call Louise on 01297 32601.

**View our newspaper online at
www.viewfromtheblackdownhills.co.uk**

bhba Blackdown Hills Business Association

What does the BHBA offer your business for £35 per year?

Listings in the Blackdown Hills Directory Also available online at www.blackdown-hills.co.uk. Members are offered FREE listings in the on-line version and will be offered listings in the next printed edition in 2011.

Member website (www.bhba.org.uk) packed with information, news and events. Every member has a listing in the member directory, with links to websites.

10% discounts for members are available in the View From the Blackdown Hills (www.viewfromtheblackdownhills.co.uk) – a monthly community journal: 8,000 circulation.

Blackdown Hills Marquee at the Honiton Show – Our 150ft foot marquee in 2009 attracted thousands of visitors in August 2009. We look forward to seeing you in our marquee at the Honiton Show 2010 – Thursday, 5 August.

Taunton Blackdown Hills Markets Our monthly markets in the Parade, Taunton (beside Neros Coffee Shop) attract a regular following. The markets run from March through to December.

Spotlight on Alpacas

Lyme Alpacas

MORNING at Lyme Alpacas begins with a walk around the farm to check all is well with mothers and cria (their young), the yearling boys and of course the studs. The herd is over a 100 strong containing both Huacaya and Suri (silky) alpacas. A quick check to see they all have access to water, grass and hay then the alternative alpaca business can begin. Visitors to Ware Barn Cottage, a 5 star holiday let based on the Lyme Alpacas Farm, are given a tour of the paddocks with the opportunity to feed the alpacas. They bring out their coffee and sit down beside the 'maternity field', hop-

ing that they might witness a birth.

At 11am, a family from Honiton have also booked a tour of the farm and are welcomed with a brief talk about alpacas and their many questions are answered. They chat to the holiday-makers and compare notes on the crazy antics of the alpacas they have seen today.

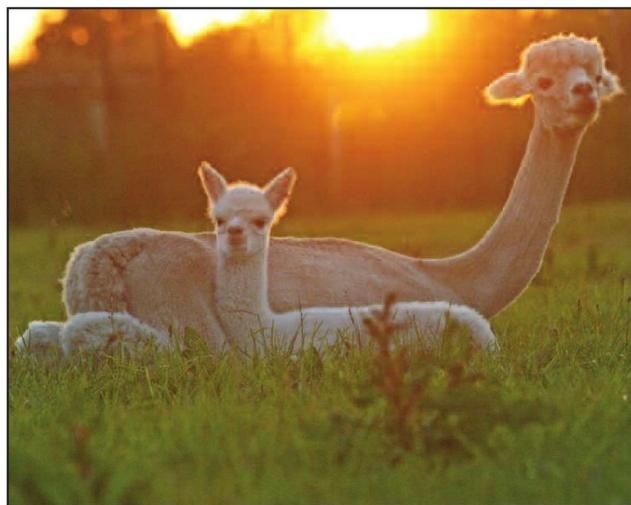
A call from the visitor's signals a birth and we all dash off to maternity. First a nose, then a leg – we need two legs for a good delivery! Just as I begin to remove my rings and grab the gel the second leg emerges, to the audible relief of the crowd. The new baby

hangs from its mother, like a high diver, frozen in time. This allows fluids to drain from the lungs of the long awaited baby, (alpacas carry their young for 11.5 months). A few more pushes and the alpaca mother silently delivers her baby onto the grass. Whilst the birth of alpacas is a joyous experience, there is much more involved in our day. The afternoon sees us grading the recently sheared fleeces to complete a shipment to the mill. Lyme Alpacas manufactures a range of 100% alpaca yarn under the label, Bare Back Alpaca. The wool is available in the finest grades on 2ply, 4ply,

Double Knit and Chunky in a variety of natural undyed colours. Wool available online or choose at the farm.

Of course every year we have a range of alpacas for sale in all colours to suit all budgets. We include full husbandry training so that your introduction to alpacas is smooth and enjoyable.

Whether it's feeding, delivering cria, husbandry training, designing knitwear and wool blends, touring the farm with visitors or reading Alpaca Chatter, a story of our Alpacas, to a class of children, it's all in a days work at Lyme Alpacas and they seem to take it all in their stride!



First Phoenix Alpacas

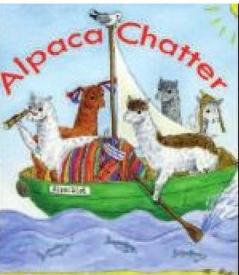
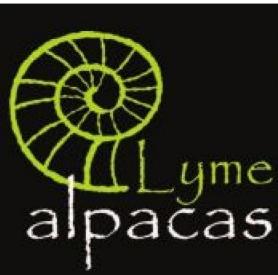


Six Pregnant girls for sale – all pregnant:
Ester aged 3 due date 08/09/2010
Beatrice aged 2 due date 06/08/2010
Babycham aged 2 due date 09/09/2010
Bianqua aged 3 due date 30/09/2010
Bethany aged 8 due date 22/08/2010
Lia aged 4 due date 25/07/2010
All of the above females are priced to sell and are all well mannered. Please call Ernie on 07734710650 to view.



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Laurel Farm Alpacas



LAUREL Farm is a family run alpaca breeding business we established in 2004 with a small foundation herd of females bred in the UK. Numbers have increased from births within the herd and imported alpacas specially selected for their ability to enhance the quality of the herd.

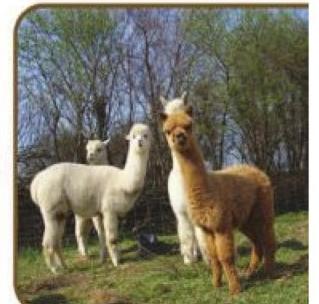
The majority of the alpacas at Laurel Farm now have been bred on farm from the original start up herd and their progeny. As part of our breeding programme we aim for the best quality fleece combined with alpacas of moderate size so that they are easy to handle.

Laurel Farm Alpacas

Top quality Alpacas for sale

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Farm Shop selling our own Alpaca Wool, Hand Knitted Garments, Gifts etc.

Free Range Eggs – Logs

See the Alpacas, Angora goats and Chickens

From Easter: cold drinks, snacks and a picnic area for visitors.

We open the farm gates from 11.a.m. as often as possible but because we are a working farm with only part time help, we cannot guarantee to be open every day. It is advisable to phone in advance to check if you are travelling specially to visit us.

Tel: 01460 220763

www.alpacas-for-sale.co.uk

At Lyme Alpacas

Alpacas for sale, all colours and prices
Ware Barn Cottage luxury 5* holiday let
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Ware Lane, Lyme Regis. DT7 3RH



**Blackdown
Hills AONB**

Making
it
local

Celebrate East Devon Heath Week: July 25th to 31st

EAST Devon Heath Week is a celebration of the heathland heritage of East Devon, which also includes part of the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Heathland is the name given to open areas of natural vegetation that are dominated by heather and gorse. When woodland was cleared by early farmers, not all land was fertile enough to support crops and, under the right conditions, some developed into heathland.

As well as providing a habitat for many different types of birds, animals and insects, the openness of heathland can give people a feeling of wilderness and freedom from the stresses of everyday life.

On a global scale, heathland is now rarer than tropical rainforest and is therefore protected to



ensure that it survives for future generations to enjoy and to conserve the species that live in it.

The East Devon and Blackdown Hills AONBs have organised a series of events as part of East Devon Heath Week – this is a selection and you can get more information by calling 01404 46663 or by visiting www.eastdevon.org.uk or www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk.

■ Stockland Turbaries Walk – Blackdowns turn purple

Thursday 29 July, 2pm – 4pm.

A guided walk with local heathland expert Dr David Allen, author of *Heathland in East Devon and the Blackdown Hills*.

See the Blackdowns turn purple as the heather comes into bloom. Get your free copy of David's book on this event.

Cost: £5. Booking required. Location: Quantock Farm, Stockland.

For more information: Contact the East Devon AONB office on (01404 46663) or

email aonb@eastdevon.gov.uk.

■ Carnivorous Plant Hunt

Friday 30 July, 2pm - 4pm.

Join local heathland expert Dr David Allen on a hunt for carnivorous plants in the Hense Moor Site of Special Scientific Interest. We'll be searching for the tiny but deadly (to insects!) sundew and other rare heathland species.

Cost: £5. Booking required.

Location: Hense Moor. Exact meeting place to be confirmed on booking.

For more information: Contact the Blackdown Hills AONB office on (01823) 680681, or email blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk



Making it Local project development workers here to help

GOT a project idea but not sure if it is eligible or how to apply for funding?

At Making it Local there are two Project Development Workers, Hattie and Nicola, to help people through the funding process.

Making it Local runs two grants programmes; Small Grants Fund (£1,000-£10,000) and Main Grants Fund (£10,000-£100,000).

If you are a small business or community group in the Blackdown Hills or East Devon AONB area then you may be eligible for funding.

Hattie's and Nicola's posts have been funded by the Blackdown Hills and East Devon AONB Sustainable Development Fund.

They have also been funded by the Making it Local Programme through funding from the EU, Defra, South West RDA and Leader.



Free funding workshops

TO help people understand more about Making it Local Hattie and Nicola have been holding free "pre-application" workshops for anyone wishing to apply.

Previous attendees have commented how useful these workshops have been and a few of them have submitted application forms, from which projects have been approved.

Comments have included "very handy indeed", "excellent for understanding the particular processes and understanding the forms" and "top tips, very practical".

The Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership is funded by Natural England, Devon County Council, Somerset County Council, East Devon District Council, Mid Devon District Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council and South Somerset District Council.

The Neroche Scheme is led by the Forestry Commission. It is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, supported by the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership, Natural England, Devon County Council, Somerset County Council, East Devon District Council, Mid Devon District Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council and South Somerset District Council, The National Trust, Somerset Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation and Somerset Art Works



Blackdown Hills AONB and Neroche Scheme
St Ivel House, Station Road
Hemyock, Cullompton
Devon EX15 3SJ

AONB telephone: 01823 680681
Neroche telephone: 01823 680846
www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk
www.nerochescheme.org

Events in the AONB

◆ WEDNESDAY 7 JULY: WALK FROM RAWRIDGE TO HARTRIDGE VIA BEACON.

10am -1pm, call Jim & Gilly Thomas of the Blackdown Hills Walking Group on 01404861406 for more information.

◆ WEDNESDAY 14 JULY: PRACTICAL VOLUNTEERING DAY

10am – 3pm, call the Neroche Scheme office on 01823 680846 for more information.

◆ SATURDAY 17 JULY - GOREN FARM HERBAL MEADOWS DAY.

From 10am, call Julian Pady on 01404 881335 for more information.

◆ SATURDAY 17 JULY - BEWLEY DOWN AND COTLEY WASH EXCURSION, WAMBROOK.

11am – 4pm. Call Dr David Allen on 01404 861394 to find out more.

◆ SATURDAY 24 JULY – TRADITIONAL HAY MEADOWS WALK, MEMBURY.

2pm – 4pm, contact the Blackdown Hills AONB office for more information and to book (see details at top of page).

◆ WEDNESDAY 28 JULY – NIGHTJAR WALK, BLACKDOWN COMMON

8.30pm – 10.30pm, contact the Blackdown Hills AONB office for more information and to book (see details at top of page).

Making it Local case study: Sustainable Shute

Organisation: Shute Community Primary School

Location: Shute Project Period: February-May 2010

Funding Amount: £23,446. Total Project Cost: £49,592

Shute Community Primary School aims to be a carbon neutral organisation by 2018.

This project will help towards achieving this goal by installing 51 solar photovoltaic panels on a currently unused, raised area of land behind the school.

The project will also install a weather station and computer display which will show power consumption and power generation.

These new features will also be incorporated within the schools learning curriculum.

In addition this project aims to raise awareness among the local community and beyond about the benefits of using renewable energy sources. Several awareness raising events will be organised for local communities and businesses.



The Blackdown Hills

at The Honiton Show



Lyman Design

Obrey Lyman of Lyman Design is a designer/maker who gets sheer delight from turning sustainable timbers into beautiful, functional pieces of furniture and fitted cabinetry.

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Devon, Dorset & Somerset



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Honiton Agricultural Show takes place on Thursday 5th August 2010

THE 120th Honiton Agricultural Show takes place on Thursday 5th August 2010.

The show received record livestock entries in 2009 and the visitors packed the cattle and sheep lines trying to get a glimpse of the magnificent animals being shown. Following the introduction of Alpacas last year the organisers reported a fantastic 94 exhibits.

The Grand Parade will take centre stage amongst the main ring activities where the day's prize winners will proudly parade giving the viewing public a wonderful opportunity to see the beautifully turned out exhibits.

The Main Ring is delighted to host for the first time the Bolddog "Lings" Freestyle Team, Honda's official and the UK's number 1 motorcycle display team.

Victor Pitts is a working sheep farmer in

Devon and will bring his fantastic sheep dog, sheep and duck display to the main ring. Victor works with beautiful Border Collies showing their commitment and his pleasure of bringing traditional farming to life. Audience participation is encouraged giving the public a real taste of this fascinating profession.

Again Honiton will play host the West of England Hound Show a show within a show which forms a major part of the lower field's countryside activities.

The vintage tractors can also be found in this area where over 90 vehicles are on display. A new addition is the Blacksmiths Guild where ornate iron work is produced and competitions run throughout the day.

There is a wonderful poultry and dog show consisting of both Pedigree classes and companion fun classes for the family pet. With over 400 trade stands providing

a diverse range of shopping to suit all including a Craft marquee and a Food Hall bursting with over forty exhibitors there really is something for everyone.

There are fantastic Food Courts to tempt your taste buds our largely locally sourced caterers can provide a wide choice of fare a bacon roll to start the day or why not try a venison burger? When it's time to stop and soak up the atmosphere of the day the award winning local brewers Otter Brewery from Luppitt will be on hand to provide that well deserved Pimms or a delicious local ale.

For music enthusiasts enjoy the Bandstand with the Honiton Band or the Ottery St Mary Silver Band or if Jazz is your taste enjoy the sounds of the Gittisham Hall Jazz Parade Band. Our next generation of farmers, The Young Farmers Clubs will be displaying their entries from flower arran-

ging to cookery and arts and handicrafts and then head to the Main Ring to cheer them on in the highly competitive Tug of War final.

Experience the best of Devon, Honiton has a unique atmosphere it brings new and traditional agriculture together so make a note in your diary as the organisers look forward to welcoming you. Don't forget accompanied under 16's go free. Make savings and purchase advance admission tickets now.

The show is open for business at 8.00am and car parking is free. There is a free shuttle bus service starting at 9.00am from Lace Walk, High Street, Honiton. For further details on the show contact the secretary on 01404 41794 or visit the website www.honitonshow.co.uk.



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since

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(Hosts to The West of England Hound Show)

Thursday 5th August 2010

MAIN RING ATTRACTIONS

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Grand Parade of Livestock
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Secretary: Marcelle Connor, Bank House, 66a High Street, Honiton, Devon EX14 1PS

www.honitonshow.co.uk



The Blackdown Hills

at The Honiton Show

David Ball

YOU may have furniture that is bent, blistered, broken or cracked; it may be dirty, scratched, scuffed, split, stained, twisted, warped or wobbly; it may even be worm-eaten, have bits missing, bodged repairs, lifted veneer or loose joints. All may not be lost; the piece below (left) came to David Ball with many of these characteristics and had also been attacked with a disc sander! – it now has a new lease of life (right) thanks to his expert care and attention.



*If you've an old cupboard, table or desk,
Chest of drawers, dresser or chair,
It may be looking well past its best
And suffering fair wear and tear.

I could restore it to use once again,
And give it some colour and glow,
But first come and see some
pieces I've done
On display at the Honiton Show.
(Blackdown Hills Marquee)*

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www.blackdown-hills.co.uk/davidball.asp

Gillys Bakery

Gilly first started her baker in April 2003 at her home in the Blackdown Hills. Her delicious bread can be found mainly at local Farmer's Markets and Country Fairs.

Orders can be taken and collected. All the bread is made from high quality ingredients sourced from local suppliers. Organic whenever possible and fully traceable. Standard Tin Loaves: Wholemeal/White, White and Granary. Sourdough Country Breads: White, Rye, Granary and Wholemeal. Sweet and savoury Breads: Sun-dried Tomato and Olive, Stilton & Walnut, Feta & Spring Onion, Cinnamon Raisin & Walnut etc.



Usborne Books

USBORNE is the UK's leading children's publisher. Usborne we are committed to investing in the future through the children who read, learn from and treasure Usborne books - and by ensuring that every single Usborne book is produced responsibly, ethically and safely.

Founded by Peter Usborne over 30 years ago, the company revolutionised children's publishing with information books that combined very high educational and editorial standards. Andrea joined Usborne 6 years ago after moving from Kent to Devon as a way of getting to know people and explore the beautiful Blackdown Hills.

To hold an usborne event call 01884 266825 or come and see us in the Blackdown Hills Marque.

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Soft Options

SOFT Options is a well established business and has been in existence for nearly 20 years.

We operate from a shop on Honiton high street, and have our own curtain making facilities on site. From our shop in Honiton, Devon we offer the complete service, to ensure we give you the window dressing you dream of. We pride ourselves on our service, quality and flexibility.

Our staff have a wealth of experience; including

Dulford Nurseries

DULFORD Nurseries is a long established family business, specializing in a very large number of species of trees and shrubs.

The Nursery covers 15 acres planted up with both native and ornamental trees and shrubs with species ranging from small to mature trees. There



Dulford Nurseries Display, Honiton Show 2009



curtain making, fitting and retail, which means we are able to give you, the customer a very high quality service. As we offer in house, measuring, make up and fitting of curtains, we believe we cannot be matched in our speed of turning around a product. Meaning service is not only high quality, but also quick. Come and see us at the Honiton Show to discuss your needs.

is also a wide range of containerised specimens for summer planting requirements.

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Honiton Show Competition,
View from the Blackdown Hills,
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The Blackdown Hills

at The Honiton Show

Blackdown Hills Business Association at The Honiton Show

The Blackdown Hills Marquee will offer an array of exhibits and activities giving you a unique experience at the Honiton Show on Thursday, 5th August. Once again, Wallace's Farm Shop & Restaurant of Hemyock will be running the Blackdown Hills Food Court outside our marquee, so make sure you drop into Wallace's for a well earned break, lunch or afternoon tea! The Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership will provide information on activities in the area and a

flora and fauna advisory service throughout the day as will the Neroche Scheme and Making it Local Programme – a grants programme for communities and businesses the area.

Wildside Experience organises days for schools, churches, companies and individuals. Outside our marquee they will be demonstrating friction fire-lighting, with opportunities for participation! You will be able to find them outside the BHBA marquee, and for more information please see their website,

www.wildsideexperience.co.uk.

Coldharbour Mill will be spinning throughout the day and they would like to remind you that you are invited to attend Coldharbour Mill self-guided tours around the extensive Mill and Steam complexes start at £3.50 for adults - with concessions for seniors - £1.75 for children and £9 for a family group of 2 adults and 4 children. This fascinating Mill in the Blackdown Hills has attractive grounds and The Gill Box Restaurant for a delicious

and reasonably priced meal.

Other businesses that will be running demonstrations throughout the day are:

David Ball Furniture Restoration, Woolly Shepherd & Woolly Waste – will be wet felting inside the marquee, Blackdown Hills Hedge Association, Blackdown Hills Woodland Association, Gill Campbell – Saddler and Escot Park.



Fishing Tackle Specialist

Otter Country Sports

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Come and find me at the Honiton show in the Blackdown Hills Tent or in the shop and get
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Welcome to Eco Green Energy!

Eco Green energy is a family run business with twenty years experience, who design and install quality heating systems, for both commercial and domestic customers, which use energy from renewable sources. These include:

- Log Boilers
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We design, supply and install these systems for both domestic and commercial customers. We also offer a service where we can supply the biomass boiler to the plumber who can then install it.

Once installed we will then commission the system and continue with technical support for the boiler from there on in, thus relieving the plumber of any technical issues which may occur once the system has been installed and commissioned. We also supply top quality wood pellet fuel at a very competitive price.

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Eco Green Energy

WE are a family business, run by father and son, David and Michael Thorne. Thornes have been part of the local community for four generations. This has enabled us to understand the needs of customers in our area, the Blackdown Hills covering the borders of Devon, Somerset and Dorset.

We appreciate the need to preserve our environment and understand the effects of fossil fuels. Therefore, we provide heating systems which use energy from renewable sources. These sources of energy can be any one or any mixture of Bio-Mass (logs, wood pellets or wood chips), Solar and Ground Source heat pumps We at Thorne's Renewables pride ourselves

in listening to and understanding our customers requirements. We endeavour to provide an energy efficient heating system, that will suit each individual which is easy to maintain, at an affordable cost without compromising on quality and provides the customer with the desired warmth and comfort at a running cost which is comparable, if not better than, that of conventional fossil fuel based systems.

Our reputation is built on 25 years experience of domestic and commercial heating installations, to discuss how we can help you, help the environment please come and see us in the Blackdown Hills tent at The Honiton Show.

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VIGO has 25 years of enthusiastic experience with apple juice, fruit juice, wine and cider making; and of supplying an extensive range of fruit juicing equipment. Our equipment combines built-to-last construction and simplicity of operation with beautiful, traditional designs.

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Sunday Lunch Menu

- Cream of Mushroom Soup, Butter Croutons, Warm Crusty Bread
- Smoked Mackerel & Cream Cheese Terrine, Lemon Crème Fraîche
- Crispy Duck & Strawberry Salad, Black Pepper & Honey Vinegar
- Chicken Liver Parfait, Melba Toast & Tomato Chutney
- Selection of Meats from the Carvery
- Wild Mushroom & Spinach Risotto with Roasted Butternut Squash
- Apple and Fruits of the Forest Crumble & Custard
- Vanilla Crème Brûlée
- White & Dark Chocolate Cheesecake
- Summer Berry Coulis
- Sticky Toffee Pudding, Butterscotch Sauce
- Selection of English Cheeses, Traditional Compliments
- Selection of Ice Creams and Sorbets

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'Lovely enjoyable lunch in beautiful setting – staff very friendly.'

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- Breaded Whole-tail Scampi, Chips and Salad, Homemade Tartare Sauce
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- Liver & Bacon Casserole with mashed Potato
- Macaroni Cheese
- White and Dark Chocolate Cheesecake
- Apple and Gooseberry Crumble, Custard
- Sticky Toffee Pudding, Butterscotch Sauce
- Selection of Ice Cream or Sorbets

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What's on in the Blackdown Hills

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from the Blackdown Hills call
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ESCOT CAMP WILD IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

THE opening of Camp Wild represents an important step in the continuing diversification by John-Michael and Lucy Kennaway of Escot, their East Devon estate of some 1100 acres. Escot is already well known as the site for the highly successful Beautiful Days music and arts festival, and venue of 2010 concerts by JLS and James Morrison. Last year Escot Park won the 2009/10 South West Small Visitor Attraction of the Year Award.

Escot has long been a centre for conservation and nature education with current programmes including, for example, the re-introduction of beaver and water voles and the restoration of historic water meadows. Much of Escot's conservation effort involves work in association with the Tale Valley Trust www.talevalley.com.

Keen to break new ground in environmental education, in 2009 Escot advertised widely and offered use of the estate to the person with the most powerful and appropriate new idea. From a field of well over 100 candidates, Victoria Siddle-Virok was the clear winner with her concept of an eco-education centre, based in a yurt village and centred on a uniquely exciting curriculum. Planned activities draw on the natural resources both on and outside the estate. Forays out to the Jurassic Coast, for example, are important elements of the programme. Her approach has been developed over several years working in California. We believe it to be unique in the UK.

Camp Wild has bunks for 64 in four dormitory yurts. Hot showers, toilets and a field kitchen are provided. A mighty 28ft communal yurt provides a central point of focus. The yurts are sourced locally here in Devon. See www.thereallyinterestingcompany.co.uk.

After an initial schools week in early July, the camp opens to the general public with a six week residential and day children's summer camp programme during July and August. Thereafter Camp Wild environmental education courses become available for schools and private groups throughout the year. (The yurts have wood burners!)

Escot has been surprised but delighted by early bookings for children's summer camp from as far afield as Taiwan and Spain. Some of these are from families who value the opportunity of a mixed 'time together / time apart' holiday during a part of which the children will enjoy Camp Wild while the parents spend time together staying in the local area. If this trend continues it might become a significant new reason for families to visit East Devon, thereby establishing Escot as a resource of regional as well as local importance.



The Yurt Village at Escot Camp Wild

Take a trip with a personal touch with Hayler's Tours

HAYLER'S Tours provide a personal service to their travellers, some on their own, to make them feel they are within a group of friends. Serving Devon, Mid and West Dorset, and South Somerset and renowned for their different and unusual tours they use comfortable coaches and friendly hotels and 'off-motorway' coffee breaks. No rushing or changing coaches at service stations here.

Interesting tours include Minack Theatre, Cornwall, National Memorial Arboretum (in the news this week); Potters, East Anglia; Isles of Scilly (flights from Exeter); Edinburgh Tattoo (staying in Edinburgh not Newcastle); Caernarfon, North Wales for Ffestiniog railway and most recently the highly successful Severn Bore phenomenon (staying in the Forest of Dean). Forthcoming tours feature Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle (luxury hotel), Dartmouth Food Festival and Clovelly's Silver Darlings – see advert.

Much time is spent researching potential venues, hotels and surrounding areas, taking into consideration the accessibility needs of travellers with mobility issues.

Frequent theatre trips to Torquay, Plymouth, Bournemouth, Carniglaze Caverns, Cardiff, Bristol and London.

For the many gardeners, there are the famous shows at Hampton Court and Kew Gardens, and the Gardens of Hadrian's Wall, along with a wide variety of hidden delights.

A dedicated service is available for groups and companies of all persuasions. Tours are organised to the group's own wishes and can include Exhibitions, Gardens, Vehicles, or themed based upon a character or author such as Lawrence of Arabia or activities such as guided Springwatch. Contact via - info@haylerstours.co.uk

It's your holiday – Bon Voyage!



Group Tour & Event Organisers

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Email: info@haylerstours.co.uk

June 2010 ADVANCE NOTICE

Watermill Theatre – 02 Sep 10
"Copacabana" – made famous by Barry Manilow
Lunch at Hungerford
Matinee in the Mill – Cream tea in old barn

Buckingham Palace & Windsor – 12 Sep 10
Luxury 3 day tour staying in Windsor's top hotel
Dorney Court & Dinner River cruise
dinner bed and breakfast

The Proms @ Minack Theatre - Cornwall
Two day celebration overlooking the sea
Next day sightseeing or shopping
dinner bed and breakfast

National Arboretum - Sep 10
2 days visit to National Memorial Arboretum
overnight half-board centre of Lichfield
dinner bed and breakfast

Dartmouth Food Festival – 23 Oct 10
The delightful tastes of this famous port

Appledore Book Fayre – 02 Oct 10
Famous authors in a fishing village

Dartmouth Food Festival – 23 Oct 10
The delightful tastes of this famous port

Silver Darlings - 14 Nov 10
Clovelly Herring Festival

Daniel O'Donnell – 02 Dec 10
Daniel winters in Bournemouth again

Marine Band in Torquay – 12 Dec 10
The Royal Marines Christmas Spectacular – best circle seats

We look forward to welcoming you on board

WHAT'S ON LISTINGS

Sunday, July 4th
CULMSTOCK
Car Show, Car Boot,
Trade Stalls, Beer
Tenet, Hot food at
Highfields from
10.30am - 4.00pm.
For more details call
01823 674495 or
01823 661701.

Teas, Raffle. Admission 50p, under 16 FREE.

Saturday, July 17th and
Sunday, July 18th
AWLISCOMBE
Gardens Open - cream teas, raffle, plant stall. 2 - 6pm at Spring Grove, in aid of repairs to the church bells

Friday, July 30th
SAMPFORD PEVERELL
Whist Drive at the Village Hall from 7.30pm. Telephone 01884 840 359 for more details.

Saturday, July 31st
ANGERSLEIGH
St Michael & All Angels Angersleigh Church Fair Fair from 2.30pm. Telephone 01823 421610 for more details.

Sunday, August 29th and
Monday, August 30th
UFFCULME
Bank Holiday Steam-up! at Cold Harbour Mill. Telephone 01884 840960 for more details.

What's On Listings form

Blackdown Hills

Event:
Date:
Time:
Venue:
Town/Village:
Organised by: Tel no:
Send your Diary Dates listings to: Pulman's View from, Unit 3, St Michael's Business Centre, Church Street, Lyme Regis, Dorset, DT7 3DB
PLEASE NOTE: This is a free service and whilst we endeavour to include all entries, we cannot guarantee all listings submitted will be published. Please use one form per event you wish to submit. Photocopies are unacceptable.



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To advertise on the Eating Out page of the View from the Blackdown Hills call Louise on 01297 32601

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New skittle teams welcome

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THE KINGS ARMS INN, STOCKLAND

Debbie and Phil Rees have been new owners of The Kings Arms in Stockland since the 1st March and along with Debbie's son Oli, who is the chef, makes the Kings Arms a real family concern. Living locally, Debbie has previous experience in the pub trade and Oli is a fully trained, enthusiastic chef. The Kings Arms dates from the 16th century and is set in the delightful village of Stockland which has stunning view across the Blackdown Hills. The Kings Arms with its' thatched roof, exposed walls, log fires and beams offers a truly traditional pub experience.

The Inn offers two dining areas, serving home

cooked food using local ingredients and high quality fresh meat, fish and vegetables. The coachman's restaurant is believed to be haunted and the Cotley bar offers a less formal dining experience. There is a huge choice of delicious meals on the menu including a specials board which changes regularly, for those who love seafood, choose the scallops and tiger prawns, if you're looking for hearty fayre choose the faggots braised in ale and for the vegetarian, sample the wensleydale cheese patties or the chef's special pea and mint risotto. Traditional sunday roast is also served using top quality sirloin beef and roast loin of pork. Food is served 7 days a week from 12 noon till 2pm and 6.30pm to 9.30pm, bookings are recommended. There is a comprehensive stock of wines on offer and local real ales, Otter, Amber and Exmoor along with guest ales are available on tap.

There is a dart board and new pool table, Debbie and Phil are introducing a pool tournament every Thursday, there is also a skittle alley and new teams are welcome. There is regular live music and a quiz the first Tuesday of every month at 8pm with proceeds going to charity.

Our large skittle alley can be transformed for functions for up to 50 people, from wedding receptions to birthdays and anniversaries we can cater for any occasion. We have three comfortable letting rooms which are ideal for those who want to stay and guests can take advantage of the traditional english breakfast served in the morning.

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Driving through the Blackdown Hills

Autumn arrival for new-look Ford Mondeo

FORD of Europe will debut its stylish and technologically advanced new Mondeo at the 2010 Moscow International Automobile Salon on August 25. The new model – in UK dealerships in October – features a restyled exterior and uprated interior, new high-efficiency Ford EcoBoost petrol and TDCi diesel powertrains, plus a host of new driver comfort and convenience features and safety technologies.

The first official preview images show that, following similar updates to the Ford S-MAX and Galaxy models earlier this year, the new Mondeo is the latest to benefit from the continuing evolution of Ford kinetic design.

"The Ford Mondeo is already a very strong package and, with the significant design changes and in particular the comprehensive array of new technologies we are introducing, we have no doubt that the new model will strengthen Mondeo's position as the flagship Ford model in our European line-up," said John Fleming, Ford of Europe chairman and CEO. "This is the smartest, safest, most environmentally friendly and best quality Mondeo we have ever launched, and it completes the regeneration of our CD segment range in 2010."

Smart design, enhanced quality

Key exterior changes include distinctive new grilles featuring a bolder lower trapezoid and a slim, stylish opening above, plus an enhanced bonnet profile. New front bumpers include LED daytime running lights, and re-designed rear lights also employ LED technology. Additionally a new rear deck lid treatment matches the revised rear light profile.

The interior is also upgraded and features a new flow-through centre console design, revised door treatment featuring flush and integrated door release handles, and a new central overhead console with ambient lighting. New trim materials across the range have been selected to enhance the premium interior feel of the new Mondeo.

New Mondeo's interior also benefits from a range of new features, including the introduction of LED courtesy lights and a new satellite navigation system, while music lovers will be able to enjoy the new Premium Sound System option which incorporates a 265-watt, eight-channel amplifier unit, all-new speaker system and large, 17-litre subwoofer.

Higher performance, more technology

The launch of the new Mondeo will see the first application of a higher performance 240PS version of the efficient 2.0-litre Ford EcoBoost turbocharged petrol engine. This will be complemented by the existing 203PS version of this engine launched in Mondeo, new

S-MAX and new Galaxy earlier this year.

While the new 240PS engine provides extra performance, average CO2 emissions are targeted to be just 179g/km, the same as the 203PS unit, regardless of bodystyle. Ford EcoBoost technology also provides fuel consumption and emissions reductions of up to 20 per cent compared to traditional petrol engines of a similar capacity.

Another first for the new Mondeo is the introduction of the comprehensively revised 2.2-litre Ford Duratorq TDCi engine, which boasts a 12 per cent power increase to 200PS, making it the most powerful Duratorq diesel engine to date. The Mondeo TDCi line-up sees this new engine joined by a significantly improved 2.0-litre DuratorqTDCidiesel that has already been introduced to the Mondeo range earlier this year. This engine is available with 115, 140 or 163PS power ratings, with all of them delivering an average CO2 emission of just 139g/km with a six-speed manual transmission, regardless of bodystyles.

To make these powertrains even more efficient, a number of new Ford ECOnetic Technologies are now made available, including Smart Regenerative Charging, Ford Eco Mode and – a Ford first – an Active Grille Shutter system. This electronically controlled device regulates the airflow through the radiator and engine compartment to reduce aerodynamic drag, but also offers benefits to the engine heating characteristics to im-

prove fuel economy and warm-up performance in cold weather.

Powertrain advances in the new Mondeo also extend to the transmission: the latest six-speed Ford PowerShift double wet-clutch transmission system comes as standard for Ford EcoBoost petrol engines, and will be available as an option for the 140PS and 163PS versions of the 2.0-litreDuratorqTDCi.

The new Mondeo range will include a comprehensive array of driver assistance features, many of which are appearing for the first time in a Ford model, including Lane Departure Warning, Driver Alert and Auto High Beam. New features already introduced in the latest S-MAX and Galaxy models are now extended to the Mondeo range, including the Blind Spot Information System, Speed Limiter, Rear Door Power Child Locks and Rear View Camera.



▲ New Ford Focus

MG Rovers show strength in numbers

PARTS specialist XPart reveals that MG Rover cars produced post-2000 have only declined by three percent in the past 12 months, despite the factory closure in 2005.

MG Rover cars are still alive and well on the UK's roads as DVLA figures highlight a slow decline in MG and Rover models, reveals XPart. The figures produced by the DVLA show that the vehicle parc for MG Rovers produced post-2000 has only declined marginally in the past 12 months. The MG parc (ZT, ZS, ZR and F/TF) has reduced by 3.1 percent, and the Rover parc by 3.7 percent (75, 45, 25, Streetwise and City Rover). In total, there are still more than one million MG Rover vehicles registered for use on the UK's roads, over 50 percent of which were built post-2000. Parts specialist XPart has supplied MG Rover parts since August 2004 and has continued as the brands' sole supplier of genuine parts following the manufacturer's collapse in April 2005.

"MG Rover owners have become increasingly confident that genuine parts and high quality servicing for their vehicles are still available," comments Barry Smith, UK Sales Manager, XPart. "Rover cars remain popular choices as family and first cars, while MGs continue to attract a strong following among motoring enthusiasts. Thanks to the hard work of our 250 MG Rover AutoService centres and to initiatives such as our write-off avoidance programme Close Call, we have been able to slow the decline and offer MG Rover owners dealer-level support in the absence of a manufacturer."

XPart's purchasing and supply teams have worked tirelessly over the past five years to ensure the ongoing supply of genuine parts from original MG Rover suppliers. The company has also forged a good working relationship with the Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC), new owners of the MG brand, and continues to source parts made from MG Rover original tooling from its China-based factory. In 2008, XPart agreed a deal with MG Motor (UK) Ltd to distribute replacement parts for the new MG TF car.

"We will continue to support MG Rover owners with genuine parts and servicing over the next five years, and will become increasingly involved in the heritage scene, as MG and Rover cars gradually become classics," concludes Smith.

For further information on XPart's parts wholesaler and AutoService centre network, or to locate your nearest XPart MG Rover specialist, please visit www.xpart.com.

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Lack of supply in rental market

STAGS Residential Lettings Department confirms that the results of recent RICS and ARLA surveys are correct in reporting that the lack of available properties coming to the rental market is fueling tenant demand and as a result, rents are beginning to rise.

Andrew Luxton MRICS FARLA, Partner in charge of Stags Residential Lettings confirms that many Buy to Let investors are currently "treading water" and are waiting to see the impact of the forthcoming emergency budget especially with regard to Capital Gains Tax. These concerns coupled with the continuing restrictions on Buy to Let lending criteria is undoubtedly restricting new Buy to Let property coming on to the market.

In addition, average tenancy length is extending reducing the number of relet properties and there are very few properties coming from the sales to the rental market at this time of year.

All these factors are resulting in a strong tenant demand for those properties that are available resulting in rents beginning to rise especially at the higher end. We urgently require further properties to let and if you wish to take advantage of the strong market then please contact your local Stags letting office on 01404 42553.

Immaculate character cottage

KNAPP Cottage represents a superb rural property occupying an outstanding position within a picturesque and unspoilt valley in the Blackdown Hills, an extremely sought after and readily accessible part of East Devon. The position of the property is a particularly attractive feature affording considerable privacy and seclusion within its own grounds.

Having been sympathetically restored by the present owners, Knapp Cottage offers immaculately presented exquisite accommodation with a wealth of period and character features such as exposed floorboards, and ceiling beams. It is believed to be approximately 300 years old and was once a former forge and sawmill.

Situated at the very end of a private lane, the cottage is set within its own grounds of approximately 1.99 acres of gardens, which comprise areas of lawn, large and smaller ponds, small copse, vegetable patch, fruit trees, paved terrace, and hardstanding area providing parking for several cars.

Knapp Cottage is offered for sale through the Greenslade Taylor Hunt with a Guide Price of £595,000. Please contact the Honiton Office for further details on 01404 462222 or email: residential.honiton@gth.net.



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